



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT RECEIVED -

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Rudland et al.

Examiner:

Kaushal, S.

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Group Art Unit:

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For

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

December 7, 2000

Date of Deposit

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Signature

December 7, 2000 Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 15, 2000, to which a CPA had been filed on November 14, 2000. Applicants request a three-month extension of time to file this reply, the requisite fee having already been paid with the CPA filing.